

REMARKS:

This application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the Office Action dated April 20, 2004. Reconsideration of that action is requested in view of the following.

Applicant and the undersigned attorney wish to thank Examiners Grant and Rachuba for the courtesies extended during a personal interview conducted on July 22, 2004. At that interview it was understood that the claims would be allowed.

Claim 7 has been amended to replace "brush-like" with "brush". As now amended Claim 7 should comply with 35 USC 112.

A Terminal Disclaimer is provided herewith in view of the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, that rejection should now be withdrawn.

The allowance of Claims 13-16 and the indication of allowability of Claims 2, 5 and 7-9 in the Office Action is noted with appreciation.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended to clearly bring out the various features of the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that parent Claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Friel '679. One of the features of the invention which is repeatedly emphasized in the application relates to the displaceable knife guiding plate.

During the interview a commercial embodiment was demonstrated, particularly the displaceable guide feature wherein the knife guiding plate is movable (i.e. displaceable) in a direction perpendicular to its guide surface plane. The guide surface thus maintains its angular orientation with respect to the abrasive surface as, for example, it moves away from the abrasive surface. This differs from Friel '679, particularly Figures 10-11 where the rollers 68 associated with the guide structure rotate but do not move in a direction perpendicular to its guide surface.

In order to clearly define the feature of the displaceable knife guiding plate parent Claim 1 has been amended to point out that the knife guiding plate is "displaceable in a direction perpendicular to its guide surface plane". This is somewhat similar to allowable Claim 2. As noted above, Friel '679 clearly does not include this feature. With the sharpener of Claim 1 the guiding plate can move away from the abrasive surface while maintaining the same angular relationship with the abrasive surface. When the force maintaining the guiding plate is in its rest condition this permits the blade to slide downwardly and remain in contact with the guiding plate and the abrasive surface. That structure is simply not disclosed in Friel '679.

Claim 23 has been added which is dependent on Claim 1. Claim 23 relates to the feature of the guide plate being located laterally to the side of the abrasive surface, as opposed to being

in front of or laterally aligned with the abrasive surface. This is illustrated, for example, in Figures 1-6 and 9 which show the guide plate 3 to be laterally to the side of abrasive coated structure 6.

It is further submitted that Claim 6 and its dependent claims are also patentable over Friel '679. Claim 6 has been amended in the same manner as Claim 1 and accordingly distinguishes over Friel '679 for the same reasons discussed above.

As with Claims 1 and 6 parent Claim 10 has also been amended to define the knife guiding plate as being displaceable in a direction perpendicular to its guide surface plane. Accordingly, Claim 10 and its dependent claims should be allowable over Friel '679.

It is further submitted that Claims 17-20 are patentable over Friel in view of Wieber. Former parent Claims 17 and 18 have now been made dependent on Claim 1. Claims 19-20 remain dependent on Claim 18. Accordingly, Claims 17-20 should be allowed because of their dependency on Claim 1 and for the features added by those claims.

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 21 should be allowed over Friel '679. Claim 21 has been amended to define the knife sharpener as including two separate and distinct sides on the

abrasive coated structure. Each of the sides has an abrasive surface. The knife guide is located toward one of the sides where an knife blade would be disposed against the knife guide and would be in contact with the abrasive surface on that side. The abrasive surfaced structure is detachably mounted in a socket in such a manner as to permit the abrasive surfaced structure to be withdrawn from the socket and then rotated and reinserted into the socket to dispose the other of the distinct sides toward the knife guide. Each of the distinct sides forms a different angle with respect to the knife guide so as to change the angular inclination in accordance with which of the sides is disposed toward the knife guide.

In Friel '679 the disclosed structure shown in Figure 6 and discussed in Col. 4, lines 1-23 includes sharpening members 36,36 mounted on the legs of a U-shaped mount 40 which is detachably secured by means of a fastener. Apparently, Examiner Grant considered this to be the suggestion of being able to rotate the U-shaped mount 40 when it is being reattached. Claim 21, however, as now amended, points out that the ability to rotate the abrasive surfaced structure is in order to selectively dispose one of at least two different abrasive surfaces toward the knife guide with each of the different abrasive surfaces having a different angular inclination. This differs from Friel '679 where the sharpening members mounted on the U-shaped mount are symmetrical.

Accordingly, even if there were a rotation of the mount when it is reattached in Friel '679 the structure of Claim 21 would not be met.

Claim 22 has been added which is dependent on Claim 21 and further defines the distinct sides as having different abrasive grit. This feature likewise is not suggested in Friel '679, particularly in its combination with Claim 21.

Since there are now two extra dependent claims, a supplemental filing fee of \$18.00 is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2775 with regard to this supplemental fee.

For the reasons submitted above this application should be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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